

minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th day of the Republican contract for America. They like to boast and they punchout with a hole puncher each contract item. Let us look at what they have punched out so far.

They have punched out police on the beat, the 100,000 police officers that this Congress provided last year. They punched out open rules by closing them to honest debate.

They have punched out taxpayers with \$40 billion for a new star wars.

Who gets punched out in the next 50 days? Well, they are going to punch out tax cuts for the wealthy. That will really help a lot. They are going to punch out senior citizens by the cuts that have to come under the balanced budget amendment. They are going to punch out veterans. They are going to punch out middle income families when they restrict student loans.

They are going to punch out kids—that is gutsy—with student nutrition cutbacks, with cutbacks on hot lunches and breakfasts.

Mr. Speaker, one would think that George Foreman had run for the Congress. But the fact is that we should not be here punching people out. Each punchout they do is a knockout to the American economy.

RECOUNTING THE SUCCESSES AT THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE CONTRACT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my friend talking about punching out certain interests in this country, I am struck by the fact that he fails to recognize the tremendous success of the first 50 of the 100 days.

We have had the most open debate process that this institution has witnessed in years. With the crime bill that we passed, we are going to allow local governments to make the determination as to how they can best deal with the crime problem, and if they want to put 100,000 police officers on the street, I am convinced that if that number is actually right, which I certainly question, this measure that we passed will be able to do that.

The fact is that we have had tremendous success during these first 50 days of the 100 days, and as we mark George Washington's birthday, it is pathetic, absolutely pathetic, that one of our colleagues has to do what the Democrats have unfortunately resorted to

Mr. Speaker, that is pathetic. It is absolutely pathetic that all they are doing is resorting to digging up dirt.

DEMOCRATS BEING GAGGED BY REPUBLICANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yes, this is the 50th day. But we got a long way to go. You know, this Congress will be in session for about another year and 10 months, so let us see what happens in that year and 10 months.

What has happened in the first 50 days is not very much. When you add it up, there has only been one bill that has been passed and become law, and that same bill is a bill that we as Democrats passed last year and everybody agreed to, and that is the compliance bill.

Nothing else has become law. The balanced budget amendment? That is still sitting over in the Senate. They are going to vote on it next week. They do not even know if they are going to pass it or not. Nothing else is moving. Nothing else has become law.

Folks, they say that great things are happening. Well, what have been the great things happening? We have been gagged. Many of us have amendments to bills. We cannot offer them. They will not let us offer them. They have a timetable. They say, "We have to do it now, right now; you cannot offer your amendment. It is going to happen today."

I wish more people would watch what happens here today and see how Democratic minority Members are gagged by the rules of the majority today, tomorrow, Friday, all next week, and all through this 50 days.

IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER LAST 50 DAYS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today we properly focus upon how much we have accomplished in just 50 days. The list is impressive: A balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, a tough and commonsense crime bill, unfunded Federal mandates reform, and setting priorities for America's foreign policy and national defense.

Now, Americans may ask how will this affect me? Let me answer. A balanced budget amendment means your children and grandchildren will have a

eral mandate reform means you will no longer have to pay the hidden taxes from the Federal Government passing down mandates to State and local governments. Setting national security priorities ensures that America will maintain its strong leadership in the world in future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we are making real changes, changes that will help the American people, and we will continue.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA A CAMPAIGN GIMMICK

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I came here to serve the families of the people of Austin, TX, not to serve as a contractor for NEWT GINGRICH. This contract is nothing more than a campaign gimmick, and if it is fully imposed, it will be the people of Austin, TX, and across this country who suffer.

The contract rejects community policing and crime prevention programs that work in Texas. It would turn over our health and safety standards to the tobacco companies and the other special interests. And the cost of this contract? At more than \$1 trillion, it threatens our financial security.

Some of the concepts in the contract are good, but I learned long before going to law school from my parents that you do not listen to the salesperson's hype, you read the fine print, the little bitty words on the back of the contract. And when you do that, you find out that this so-called Contract With America is devastating to middle-class families across this country.

This contract goes too far, too fast, too extreme. It can and should be rejected.

PROMISES MADE ARE PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the midway point in the Contract With America. Only 50 days into this historical 104th Congress, Republicans have said no to business as usual in Washington. We have already passed a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, and have brought Congress under the same laws as the rest of the